REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,182,094 to Humpleman et al. ("Humpleman").

Claim 1 was previously amended to recite "executing a second program prepared beforehand in said first device, said second program being operable to select a most desirable device as said second device from among a plurality of devices connected to said first device *without a selection input from a user* and to obtain device information for the most desirable device." (emphasis added)

The Examiner contends that Humpleman discloses the "use of macro to facilitate the convenient setup and control of several devices connected to the bus network thereby avoiding a user operating the GUI selects the second device in subsequent actions." *9/18/06 Office Action*, p. 2, 4th ¶. Further, the Examiner asserts that such disclosure "meets the amended limitation… 'without a selection input from a user…'." *Id.* However, close inspection of Humpleman reveals that Humpleman requires a selection input from a user (i.e., selecting a particular home device), even if a macro has been created.

As discussed in Humpleman, use of the macro merely reduces a number of steps required to set preferences for the selected home device. *See, e.g., Humpleman* Col. 20, l. 67 - Col. 21, l. 3. That is, the macro merely saves a series of steps typically performed by a user to adjust settings (e.g., brightness, tint, contrast, etc.) of the selected home device. *See Humpleman,* Col. 20, l. 60 - Col. 21, l. 9. However, use of the macro as described by Humpleman still requires the user to select a home device to execute a particular service. *See id.,* at Col. 20, ll. 58-60. Furthermore, use of the macro

does not eliminate a need for the user to input his settings preferences, because the user must select a saved macro and then input that selection in order to execute the macro.

Accordingly, Humpleman fails to describe "executing a second program prepared beforehand in said first device, said second program being operable to select a most desirable device as said second device from among a plurality of devices connected to said first device *without a selection input from a user* and to obtain device information for the most desirable device." In light of at least this distinction, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Humpleman, and request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and therefore include all the limitations therein. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 2-9 are also patentable over Humpleman. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 2-9 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 10, 11, and 21 recite similar limitations to those of claim 1. Specifically, claim 10 recites: "executing a second program prepared beforehand in said first device, the second program being operable to select a most desirable device as said second device from among a plurality of devices connected to said first device *without a selection input from a user* when executed." (emphasis added) Claim 11 recites: "a processor that executes said first and second programs stored in said first and second storage units, said second program being operable to select a most desirable device from among a plurality of devices connected to the control equipment *without a selection input from a user* and to obtain information for the most desirable device." (emphasis added) Claim 21 recites: "a processor in which said first and

9

second programs are executed, said second program is operable to obtain information from a plurality of devices and is operable to select a most desirable device from said plurality of devices *without a selection input from a user*, and the most desirable device is operable to be controlled based on the obtained information." (emphasis added)

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10, 11, and 21 are also patentable over Humpleman. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is requested.

Because claims 12-20 depend from claim 11, all the limitations of claim 11 inhere therein. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 12-20 be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have. If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: January 2, 2007   Respectfully submitted,
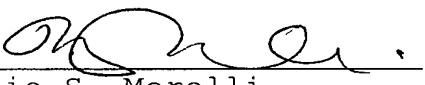
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